

Remarks

Favorable consideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 1-5 and 7-11 remain pending in the application, with Claims 1 and 11 being independent. Claims 1, 2 and 11 have been amended herein.

Initially, Applicants' undersigned attorney wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extending during the personal interview of March 15, 2004. During the interview, differences between the invention as claimed in the Amendment filed March 10, 2004, and the citations of record were discussed. No agreement was reached.

In order to further distinguish the invention from the applied art, Applicants have further amended independent Claims 1 and 11 herein. In particular, these claims now more explicitly recite a determining means or determining step as requested by the Examiner during the interview. Further, these claims recite that the drive timing of --all-- rather "any" of the determined printing elements is adjusted. These changes are believed to even further distinguish the claimed invention from the citations of record.

As discussed during the interview, Gibson et al. compares an offset error E between a bottom-most pixel of a first scan with a top-most pixel of a second scan. In order to minimize any offset, the array of ink emitting orifices in Gibson et al. is segmented into at least two vertically adjacent segments and the ink dot placement locations for at least one of the segments are shifted in a transverse direction while those associated with the other segment remain unchanged.

It is respectfully submitted that Gibson et al. does not disclose or suggest determining all of the printing elements from among a plurality of printing elements that have displacement amounts of printing positions of corresponding printed pixels from a printing position of a printed pixel corresponding to one end side of an array of printing elements equal to or greater than a predetermined amount, as is recited in independent Claims 1 and 11. That is, because Gibson et al. merely compares the offset of two adjacent pixels in separate scans, it does not determine all the printing elements that have displacement amounts equal to or greater than a predetermined amount.

Furthermore, because Gibson et al. does not determine all the printing elements having displacement amounts equal to or greater than the predetermined amount, it does not describe adjusting the drive timing of all of those determined printing elements.

Thus, Gibson et al. fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in independent Claims 1 and 11.

Perner and Beauchamp et al. have also been reviewed, but are not believed to remedy the deficiencies of Gibson et al. noted above with respect to the independent claims.

During the interview, the Examiner suggested that U.S. Patent No. 6,350,004 (Askren) be reviewed. Askren relates to a method and system for compensating for a skew in an ink jet printer. As understood by Applicants, Askren can determine an amount of the skew and discloses a structure for modifying a driving order of nozzle groups forming a plurality of nozzles arranged on the printhead, according to the amount of the skew. However, Applicants respectfully submit that Askren does not disclose or

suggest adjusting driving timing of the printing elements determined to have displacement amounts of printing positions equal to or greater than a predetermined amount.


Accordingly, Askren is also not believed to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in the independent claims.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 1 and 11 are patentable over the citations of record. Dependent Claims 2-5 and 7-10 are also believed to be allowable for reciting features in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and an early Notice of Allowability is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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